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**Journal 48**

Tuesday, May 8, 2001.

*1 o'clock p.m.*

Prayers.

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Elections Act*, Hon. Mr. Harrison laid upon the table of the House the returns of votes polled in the electoral district of Kent South in the by-election held April 23, 2001.

On motion of Hon. Mr. Lord, seconded by Hon. Mr. Robichaud,

RESOLVED, that the returns be entered in the Journals of the House.

And they are as follows:

**RETURNS OF THE ELECTION  
FOR A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2001**

**KENT SOUTH**

Claude Williams (PC)	4,346
Lucille Haché Riedle (Liberal)	2,730
Marguerite Girouard (NDP)	370

PAUL P. BOURGEOIS  
Returning Officer

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Mr. Claude Williams, member-elect for the electoral district of Kent South was introduced by the Honourable the Premier and took his seat in the House.

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The Honourable the Premier congratulated Mr. Douglas Cosman, Member for Kings East, who was recently awarded the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal.

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Hon. Mr. Mockler welcomed to the House Mr. Omar Léger, Progressive Conservative Member of the Legislative Assembly (1971-1987) and Mr. Albert Doucet, Liberal Member of the Legislature (1991-1999).

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Following Introduction of Guests and Congratulatory Messages, Mr. Speaker advised that an excessive length of time had been spent on this item of routine proceedings limited to 10 minutes under the Standing Rules. Mr. Speaker further stated that this item of routine

business should not be used to make ministerial statements or other similar and lengthy commentary.

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Mr. Richard gave Notice of Motion 109 that on Tuesday, May 15, 2001, he would move the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Mersereau:

That an address be presented to Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, praying that she cause to be laid upon the table of the House a list of any and all write-offs, since June 21, 1999, of loans to corporations, partnerships or individuals, including but not limited to all loans issued by a government department, agency, board or commission, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, specific details of each such loan and copies of all documents, memorandums, letters, correspondence, electronic mail, reports, analyses or recommendations in connection with or related to each such loan and/or the decision to write-off.

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Hon. Mr. Green announced that following second reading and Private Members' Motions, it was the intention of the government that the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider the estimates of the Department of Health and Wellness.

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The Order being read for second reading of Bill 56, *An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act*, a debate arose thereon.

And the debate being ended, and the question being put that Bill 56 be now read a second time, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Accordingly, Bill 56, *An Act to Amend the Oil and Natural Gas Act*, was read a second time and ordered referred to the Committee of the Whole House.

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Debate resumed on Motion 19 moved by Mr. Stiles, seconded by Mr. Steeves, as follows:

WHEREAS the government successfully sought a mandate to eliminate the tolls placed upon a selected portion of the Trans-Canada Highway; and

WHEREAS the government was able to eliminate these tolls, thereby eliminating an unfair tax upon a selected portion of New Brunswick, would likely not have covered the cost of the tolling system and related infrastructure, operations, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS the volume of non-New Brunswick-based commercial traffic would likely not have covered the cost of the tolling system and related infrastructure, operations, and maintenance; and

WHEREAS New Brunswick generates revenues from out-of-province commercial traffic through its participation in international fuel tax agreements; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the toll-taxes on this section of the Trans-Canada Highway will improve safety conditions for the motoring public in general as more New Brunswickers will be able to afford to use the safer, four-lane highway infrastructure;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly congratulate the government for its commitment to eliminating the tolls from the Fredericton-Moncton section of the Trans-Canada Highway.

And the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 19 was carried.

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Motions 18 and 37 by Ms. Weir were, by leave of the House withdrawn.

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Motion 22 by Mrs. Mersereau was, by leave of the House, stood over to Thursday, May 17, 2001.

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Pursuant to Notice of Motion 23, Ms. Poirier, seconded by Mr. Huntjens, moved the following resolution:  
WHEREAS on June 7th, 1999, New Brunswickers voted for a change in government; and  
WHEREAS the new government sought a mandate to focus on the five priority areas of changing the way government works, renewing health care, investing in education, building new job opportunities, and managing smarter \_ lowering taxes;  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Legislature encourage the government to continue to set forth an agenda based on the five priority areas of changing the way that government works; renewing health care; building new job opportunities; managing smarter \_ lowering taxes; and investing in education.

And the question being put, a debate ensued.

Due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ashfield, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some time, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair.

And the debate continuing, after some further time, Mr. Speaker interrupted proceedings and advised that the time allotted for Private Members' Motions had expired.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. Bernard, in the chair.

At 6 o'clock p.m. the Chairman left the chair, to resume again at 7 o'clock p.m.

*7 o'clock p.m.*

The Committee resumed with Mr. Bernard in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Ashfield, took the chair.

And after some further time spent therein, Mr. Speaker resumed the chair and Mr. Ashfield, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported

that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Deputy Speaker then put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

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And then 10 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.

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The following documents, having been deposited with the Clerk of the House, were laid upon the Table of the House, pursuant to Standing Rule 39:

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 72 - May 2, 2001

Documents requested in Notices of Motions 65,

71, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81 - May 3, 2001

Documents requested in Notice of Motion 66 and 69 - May 4, 2001

Annual Report Superintendent of Insurance - May 3, 2001